

§ 45.175 Certification.

(a) In order to be exempt from the load line and marking requirements of this part, the owner of a vessel must apply for exemption in writing to the Officer in Charge, Marine Inspection, Chicago, Illinois. The application may be in any form and must be signed by the owner or an officer authorized to represent the barge's owner. The mailing address is Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office, 610 S. Canal Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60607. No form or certificate will be returned, however, the owner's certification will be kept on file at the Marine Safety Office, Chicago. The owner of a barge for which a load line exemption is in effect shall notify the OCMI, Chicago of the transfer of ownership, change of service, or other disposition of the barge.

(b) The owner and operator of a vessel for which a load line exemption has been requested are responsible for maintaining the vessel and complying with the special operating requirements.

(c) The application for exemption from the load line requirements must include the following general information:

- (1) Barge name.
- (2) Type.
- (3) External dimensions.
- (4) Types of Cargo.
- (5) Official Number or other classification numbers.
- (6) Owner and operator addresses and telephone numbers.
- (7) Place and date built.

(d) The application must state and certify compliance with the following:

(1) The vessel has been designed and built to at least the minimum scantlings of the American Bureau of Shipping River Rules which were in effect at the time of construction.

(2) The provisions of 46 CFR 45.177 will be complied with before and during all voyages between Calumet Harbor, Chicago, Illinois and Burns Harbor, Indiana and intermediate ports on Lake Michigan.

§ 45.177 Special operation requirements.

(a) Before commencement of any voyage on Lake Michigan, the towboat operator shall ensure the following:

(1) Deck and side shell plating must be free of visible holes, fractures or serious indentations as well as damage that would be considered in excess of normal wear and tear.

(2) Cargo box side and end coamings must be watertight.

(3) All manholes must remain covered and secured watertight.

(b) During the voyage, all vessels subject to this subpart must meet the following minimum operating requirements in all seasons:

(1) The vessel must be operated during fair weather conditions only.

(2) The freeboard of the vessel must not be less than 24 inches.

(3) The combined operating freeboard plus the height of cargo box coamings must be at least 54 inches.

(4) The voyage must not be farther than 5 miles from a harbor of safe refuge between Calumet Harbor, Chicago Illinois and Burns Harbor, Indiana.

(5) All void tanks must be kept free of excess water.

**APPENDIX A TO PART 45—LOAD LINE
CERTIFICATE FORM**

GREAT LAKES LOAD LINE CERTIFICATE

No. _____

Issued under the authority of the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard, United States of America, under the provisions of the Act of August 27, 1935, as amended to establish load lines on the Great Lakes of North America and the Load Line regulations in force on _____, 19____, By _____, duly authorized by the Commandant to issue said load line certificate.

Ship _____
Certificate No. _____
Official No _____
Length (LBP) _____
Gross tonnage _____
Port of registry _____

Type of Ship:

TYPE "A"
TYPE "B"
TYPE "B" with increased freeboard

FREEBOARD FROM DECK LINE

Midsummer MS